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**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT JUSTICES TO ADMINISTER OATH TO
NEW ATTORNEYS**

Nearly 1,800 new attorneys will be admitted to practice in Illinois on Thursday, November 7 with Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court presiding and administering the attorney's oath at five separate locations.

All of the candidates have passed the Illinois state bar examination and an ethics examination, and have been certified by the Committee on Character and Fitness.

The largest group, 1,412, will be admitted in the First Judicial District during ceremonies starting at 10:30 a.m. at Arie Crown Theater, McCormick Place East. Chief Justice Mary Ann G. McMorroo will preside over the ceremony, with Justices Charles E. Freeman and Thomas R. Fitzgerald participating.

Illinois Appellate Court Justice Anne M. Burke and Alderman Edward M. Burke will make the motion to admit the class. Their daughter, Sarah, is a member of the class.

The 1,777 men and women were certified as candidates and will be sworn in as Illinois attorneys Thursday at ceremonies in the five Supreme Court judicial districts.

Here are the time and locations of Thursday's ceremonies:

Supreme Court Justice Philip J. Rarick will preside over the Fifth Judicial District ceremony, 2 p.m., Gateway Convention Center, LaSalle Room, near Interstates 55/70 & Route 157, Collinsville.

Illinois Appellate Court Justice Susan Hutchinson will preside over the Second Judicial District ceremony, 10 a.m., Hemmens Memorial Building, Elgin Civic Center Plaza, 150 Dexter Court, Elgin.

MORE

Supreme Court Justice Thomas L. Kilbride will preside over the Third Judicial District ceremony, 1:30 p.m., Theater at the Bicentennial Park, 201 West Jefferson, Joliet.

Supreme Court Justice Rita B. Garman will preside over the Fourth Judicial District ceremony, 10:30 a.m., Michael J. Howlett Building, Second and Jackson Streets, Springfield.

The new attorneys will bring the total number of licensed attorneys in Illinois to over 77,000.

Media coverage is invited.

Chief Justice McMorrow was the only woman in her graduating class at Loyola University School of Law in 1953. She also was the first woman to prosecute major criminal cases in the Cook County State's Attorney's office and in 1992 became the first woman elected to the Illinois Supreme Court. She became the first female Chief Justice September 5, 2002.

Justice Freeman received his J.D. degree from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago in February 1962. He was elected to the Illinois Supreme Court on Nov. 6, 1990, as the first African-American to serve on the Court. On May 12, 1997, he was selected as Chief Justice and served in that capacity until January 1, 2000.

Justice Fitzgerald began his own career in the law as a prosecutor in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. When first elected to the bench in 1976, he was the youngest Cook County judge. In 1989, he was elevated to presiding judge of Cook County's criminal courts. He was elected to the Supreme Court of Illinois for the First District in November, 2000.